

Maryland Plan to Eliminate Health Disparities

“MEASURING HEALTH DISPARITIES”

Committee Charge

December 2004

Preface: The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has been given the responsibility, by legislation to undertake tasks that will reduce and ultimately eliminate health disparities in the state. To this end, the Department is developing a statewide plan with broad input and partners.

Systematic and standardized data collection, analysis and reporting are important to understand and eliminate health disparities. Improved data systems that include standardized outcome measures and standardized ethnic/racial identifiers to analyze health inequalities will provide essential tools for eliminating health disparities.

Charge: The “*Measuring Health Disparities*” committee is charged with studying innovative methods and identifying resources to improve existing data systems that will support programs to eliminate health disparities.

The Committee is asked to submit a report of recommendations to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene by June 30, 2005

Methods: The Committee may use a variety of planning tools:

- A. Conduct wide research to discover innovative approaches,
- B. Invite expert speakers from federal, state and private sector programs that are addressing the reduction of health disparities,
- C. Investigate the economic burden of health disparities and identify models for tracking progress in Maryland,
- D. Seek “Best Practices” that have been used in other settings to improve the collection of ethnic/racial health data, and
- E. Identify new approaches that work.

“What gets measured gets done”